

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown:

CLAIMS :

(Original) 1. A method of inhibiting or reducing the proliferation of prostate cancer cells, the method comprising administering to the cells a PLA₂ inhibitor.

(Original) 2. A method for the treatment of prostate cancer, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a PLA₂ inhibitor.

(Original) 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the prostate cancer cells are androgen independent prostate cancer (AIPC) cells.

(Original) 4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the PLA₂ inhibitor is a cPLA₂-α inhibitor.

(Original) 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the PLA₂ inhibitor is an sPLA₂-IIA inhibitor.

(Original) 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the PLA₂ inhibitor is a conformationally constrained molecule derived from a peptide consisting essentially of amino acid residues 70-74 of a human sPLA₂-IIA protein, or the equivalent residues in other sPLA₂ proteins.

(Original) 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the conformationally constrained molecule is a cyclic molecule.

(Original) 8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the conformationally constrained molecule is a cyclic peptide or derivative thereof.

(Original) 9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the conformationally constrained peptide is a cyclic peptide of the following formula: A1-A2-A3-A4-A5 in which A1 is F or Y or W or 2Nap A2 is L or I

A3 is S or T

A4 is F or Y or W or 2Nap

A5 is R or K.

(Currently Amended) 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of cFLSYK (SEQ ID NO: 5), cFLSYR (SEQ ID NO: 6) and c(2NapA)LS(2NapA) R.

(Original) 11. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein a cPLA₂-α inhibitor is administered in conjunction with an sPLA₂-IIA inhibitor.

(Original) 12. A method for detecting prostate cancer or a metastases thereof in a subject, said method comprising: determining the level of PLA₂ mRNA expressed in a test sample from said subject; and comparing the level of PLA₂ mRNA determined at (i) to the level of PLA₂ mRNA expressed in a comparable sample from a healthy or normal individual, wherein a level of PLA₂ mRNA at (i) that is enhanced in the test sample relative to the comparable sample from the normal or healthy individual is indicative of the presence of a cancer cell in said subject.

(Original) 13. A method for detecting prostate cancer or a metastases thereof in a subject, said method comprising: determining the level of a PLA₂ polypeptide in a test sample from said subject; and comparing the level of PLA₂ polypeptide determined at (i) to the level of said PLA₂ polypeptide in a comparable sample from a healthy or normal individual, wherein a level of said PLA₂ polypeptide at (i) that is enhanced in the test sample relative to the comparable sample from the normal or healthy individual is indicative of the presence of a cancer cell in said subject.

(Original) 14. A method of assessing the predisposition of a subject to prostate cancer, the method comprising the step of determining the presence of a polymorphism or an epigenetic change in a PLA₂ gene of the subject.

(Original) 15. A method according to any one of claims 12 to 14 wherein the prostate cancer cells are androgen independent prostate cancer (AIPC) cells.

(Original) 16. A method according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the PLA₂ is cPLA₂-α.

(Original) 17. A method according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the PLA₂ is sPLA₂-IIA.